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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/432,503	11/02/1999	THOMAS R. CECH	15389-002611	1130
34151 7590 08/01/2008 TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP 8TH FLOOR TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111				
EXAMINER				
ANGELL, JON E				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1635				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/01/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/432,503

Applicant(s)

CECH ET AL.

Examiner

J. E. Angell

Art Unit

1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-57 and 74-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41, 42, 45, 46, 52-55, 57 and 82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 43, 44, 47-51, 56, 74-81 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is in response to the communication filed on 6/24/08.

The amendment filed 6/24/08 is acknowledged and has been entered.

Claims 41-57 and 74-82 are currently pending in the application and are addressed herein.

1. Applicant's arguments are addressed on a per section basis. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this Action can be found in a prior Office Action. Any rejections not reiterated in this action have been withdrawn as being obviated by the amendment of the claims and/or applicant's arguments.

Miscellaneous

Upon updating the search of the claimed invention it was determined that the instant claims could not be allowed for the reasons indicated herein. The Examiner apologizes for not identifying this issue earlier in prosecution. Since the instant rejection was not necessitated by amendment this Office Action is Non-Final.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re*

Vogel, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 41, 42, 45, 46, 52-55, 57, 82 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8, 19 and 20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,767,719. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other for the following reasons: the instant claims are drawn to a method comprising introducing into mammalian cells *in vitro* a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising the telomerase T motif wherein the protein has telomerase catalytic activity when complexed with a telomerase RNA component, whereby introduction of the polynucleotide into the cell increases the proliferative capacity of the cell and the claims of the '719 patent are drawn to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide that is encompassed by the instantly claimed polynucleotide as well as an expression vector that expresses the polypeptide and methods of producing the polypeptide in a cell by expressing the polynucleotide in a host cell. Furthermore, although the claims of the '719 patent do not explicitly indicate that the host cell in which the polypeptide is produced is a mammalian cell, such as a human cell or lymphocyte, or the type of vector used to express the polypeptide, it is noted the claims of the '719 patent broadly encompass the cells types and vectors which can be used to produce the polypeptide. It is noted that the specification can be used as a dictionary to learn the meaning of a term in the patent claim. *Toro Co. v. White Consol. Indus., Inc.*, 199 F.3d 1295, 1299, 53

USPQ2d 1065, 1067 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (“[W]ords in patent claims are given their ordinary meaning in the usage of the field of the invention, unless the text of the patent makes clear that a word was used with a special meaning.”); *Renishaw PLC v. Marposs Societa' per Azioni*, 158 F.3d 1243, 1250, 48 USPQ2d 1117, 1122 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (“Where there are several common meanings for a claim term, the patent disclosure serves to point away from the improper meanings and toward the proper meanings.” Looking to the specification of the ‘719 patent as a dictionary to define the broad terms encompassed by the claims, it is clear that the specification of the ‘719 patent clearly indicates that preferred embodiments of the cell types which can be used as “host cells” include mammalian cells, including human cells and lymphocytes (e.g., see Example 3; col. 72, lines 42-63; col. 74, lines 53-67; col. 75, lines 18-55; paragraph bridging columns 11-12; etc.), and that preferred embodiments of the “expression vector” include an EBV expression vector, a retrovirus expression vector, and an adenovirus expression vector (e.g., see Example 3; col. 32, lines 19-35; col. 77; etc.). Furthermore, although the claims of the ‘719 patent does not explicitly indicate that expressing the polypeptide in a mammalian cell would increase the proliferative capacity of the cell, it is noted that expressing the polypeptide comprising the T motif as indicated in the claims of the ‘719 patent would necessarily result in increasing the proliferative capacity of the cell, as is indicated in the specification (e.g., see paragraph bridging columns 11-12).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 43, 44, 47-51, 56, 74-81 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. E. Angell whose telephone number is 571-272-0756. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Douglas Schultz can be reached on 571-272-0763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. E. Angell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1635